

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

The attached sheets of drawings include:

- The attached sheet of drawing (Fig. 1) replacing the original sheet and including changes to Fig. 1 (numeral 22 now indicates the front opening rather than the fan blade); and
- The attached sheet of drawings adding NEW Figs. 7 and 8 (one sheet).

Attachment: Replacement Sheet of Fig. 1
Annotated Sheet showing changes to Fig. 1
New sheet including Figs. 7 and 8.

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This Response is being filed concurrently with payment of the required late penalties.

Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

Drawings

The Examiner has objected to the drawings under 37 CFR 1.83(a) for not showing all features cited in claims 8, 17 and 18. The Examiner has further identified a clerical error in Figure 1.

A replacement sheet of Figure 1 is submitted to correct the indication of numeral 22 which should point to the front opening and not the fan blade.

A new sheet of added Figures 7 and 8 is submitted, showing the features which have been claimed.

Therefore the Examiner's objection to the drawings is traversed.

Specification

The Examiner has identified a number of clerical errors in the abstract of the disclosure and the disclosure itself. Amendments to the abstract and paragraphs 0021, 0026, and 0029 have corrected the clerical errors according to the Examiner's suggestions.

The Examiner is asked to note that new paragraphs [0022] and [0023] have been inserted into the section *BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS* after paragraph [0021] and is asked to **renumber all subsequent paragraphs accordingly**. Please also note that paragraphs [0020] and [0021] have been amended in accordance with the addition of the new paragraphs.

The Examiner is also asked to note that paragraphs [0033] and [0034] (prior to renumbering) have been amended to include reference to new drawing Figures 7 and 8.

Claim Objections

The Examiner has objected to claims 10-15 and has required appropriate corrections for the defects identified in claims 10, 11 and 13. Claims 10 and 13 have been amended

according to the Examiner's suggestion. Claim 11 is amended by addition of the missing words and a period. Therefore, the Examiner's objections to claims 10-15 are traversed.

Claims Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-9, 13, and 16-19 under 35 USC § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. Claims 1, 2, 3, 4, 7, 8, 9 and 16 have been amended to correct the defects identified by the Examiner.

Claim Rejections- 35 U.S.C § 102

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-5 and 10-15 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Leone (US 3,990,814) and has rejected claims 1-2, 4-5 and 10-15 as being anticipated by Staats (US 1,878,907).

The claims, as amended, are not anticipated. Leone and Staats teach fasteners used in aircraft engines for securing parts together. Leone and Staats' fasteners are not and cannot be used as a selectively attachable balancing weight to engine shaft for balancing - since Leone and Staats' teach that all fasteners must be installed, and are required for connection purposes, and would be provided symmetrically around the part, and therefore cannot possibly provide a rotational balancing function. In relation to an apparatus for rotationally balancing a shaft, a balance weight is not any element or a fastener having a weight, but must be an element which has a desired weight and can be attached only at a required position - i.e. asymmetrically to address an observed asymmetry or imbalance. The fasteners of Leone and/or Staats' serve only a connection purpose, and not a balancing purpose, and neither reference teaches that fasteners can be omitted for balancing purposes. Nevertheless, claim 1 has been amended to more clearly distinguish the claimed invention over the cited prior art. Therefore, the Examiner's rejection of claims 1-5 and 10-15, based on either citation, is traversed.

Claim Rejections- 35 U.S.C § 103

The Examiner has rejected claims 6-7 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Leone in view of Rosan (US 2,685,320), and has alleged that Leone discloses all

claimed features except the clinch nuts and the means for restraining rotation of the respective clinching nuts, which is taught by Rosan. Regardless, Applicant submits the argument is moot as the claims are allowable as dependent from an allowable base claim.

The Examiner has rejected claim 8 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Leone in view of either Osawa (US 5,033,923) or Nakanura (US 5,235,228), and has alleged that Leone discloses all claimed features except that a screw with a selected length can be selected from a variety of standard screws. Regardless, Applicant submits the argument is moot as the claim is allowable as dependent from an allowable base claim.

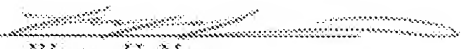
Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant gratefully acknowledges the Examiner's statement of allowability of claims 9, 16 and 17-19.

No new matter has been added.

It is believed that this application is in condition for immediate allowance. Favourable consideration and early issuance of the Notice of Allowance are respectively solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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APPENDIX A